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The execution of this Opera throughout was in the highest degree satisfactory. Madlle. Lucca was an excellent *Selika*, singing with an earnestness that made every phrase tell with the audience; and *Inez* found an able representative in Madlle. Fioretti. Signor Wachtel has proved himself a genuine artist by his acting and singing in *Vasco di Gama*. With many temptations to force his voice, he was always true to the situation, using only his high notes when power was legitimately required. Signor Graziani, too, in the thankless part of *Nelusko*, made the utmost of every opportunity afforded him by the composer; and Signori Atrii, Polonini, Schmid and Tagliafico, in the less important parts, gave the utmost effect to the concerted music. The Opera was a decided success with the audience; but we have doubts whether *L'Africaine*, with its many points of attraction, and its many drawbacks, will take as permanent a hold of the public as those which have already made the name of Meyerbeer so popular.

#### MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

The last Subscription Concert of the present season was given at St. James's Hall on the 29th of June. Amongst the choral music, Mendelssohn's Psalm for an eight-part choir, "Judge me, O God," was conspicuous for its faultless execution; and the fine old madrigals, for the interpretation of which this Choir has always been celebrated, produced the effect which such genuine specimens of a real school of writing must always do. Encores were numerous during the evening. Mr. Henry Leslie's excellent Part-song, "Awake, awake," and Mr. Henry Smart's "Lady, rise," one of the best of the very many melodious Part-songs he has written, being re-demanded by universal consent. The same compliment was paid to Pearsall's madrigal, "Lay a garland," which although not equal in flavour to the true old English compositions which we have mentioned above, is an exceedingly meritorious and musician-like composition. The vocal solos were entrusted to Madame Lemmens-Sherrington and Mr. Cummings; and the instrumentalists were Madame Goddard (pianoforte) and Signor Piatti (violinocello).

A CONCERT on behalf of Signor Giuglini, who we regret to say is still unable to fulfil his professional duties, was given at the Hanover-square Rooms on the 1st ult., when a number of well-known artists—amongst whom we are glad to record the name of Madame Grisi—contributed their valuable aid to the cause. The programme, with the exception of a pianoforte solo by Madame Goddard, and a violinocello fantasia by Signor Piatti, was entirely composed of vocal music. The performance afforded the utmost satisfaction to the audience; and we have every hope that, as the concert was under the most distinguished patronage, a handsome sum will be realized for the benefit of an artist who has been so long and deservedly a favorite with the public.

A CONCERT was given on the 4th ult., at the Hanover-square Rooms, by the Mesdemoiselles Van Der Beek. The harp playing of Madlle. Stephanie Van Der Beek was much admired, and Madlle. Celestine's powers as a pianist were tested in two solos and in a harp and violin duet with her sister. Mesdemoiselles Sidonia and Virginie Der Beek, the former as *soprano* and the latter as *contralto*, gave several vocal pieces with much effect. The concert was under the patronage of the Belgian Minister, and was well attended.

SIGNOR Gustave Garcia and Mr. Walter Bache gave a concert at Messrs. Collard's Rooms on the 4th ult. Mr. Bache is a pianist of much promise; and his appeal to the public in Mendelssohn's "Variations sérieuses" and in Liszt's Duo for two Pianofortes, "Les Préludes" (arranged from the "Poème Symphonique," for the orchestra, by the author), showed very excellent and varied powers, and he received much and well deserved applause. Signor Garcia was very successful in his vocal solos. The concert-givers were assisted by Mr. Henry Blagrove (violin), Herr Damreuther (pianoforte), Mons. Paque (violinocello), and Mr. John Cheshire (harp); and in the vocal department by Miss Rose Hersee and Mr. W. H. Cummings.

At an interesting Concert, given by the pupils of the Royal Academy of Music, at the Institution, Teutenden-street, on the 15th ult., the prize medals were distributed by the Duchess Dowager of Cleveland. As it was announced that these prizes were given solely according to the number of marks obtained by the students during the year, no idea of any favoritism in the selection of the recipients could for a moment be entertained. The silver medals were awarded to Miss Adelheid Kinkel and Mr. William C. Dewberry; and the bronze ones to Miss Emma Buer and Mr. Arthur Fox.

AN extra concert was given by Mr. Henry Leslie's choir on the 13th ult., for the "benefit of a member of the choir who has suffered from misfortune." A very excellent programme was provided; containing, in addition to some of the specimens best calculated to display the sterling qualities of the choir, a number of effective vocal solos. The concert was well attended; and we have every hope that the laudable object of the performance will be attended with the most satisfactory results.

A VOCAL and Instrumental Concert was given at the City Gospel Hall, Brackley Street, Golden Lane, Barbican, E.C., on the 25th ult., in aid of the Sick and Distress Fund. The programme consisted of anthems, choruses, &c. Among the pieces that were deservedly encored we may notice "Where Autumn Winds," "The Song of the Emigrant," and the "Laughing Chorus." The principal vocalists were Misses Lamb, Stent, Buckett, and Clarke; and Messrs. Buckett and P. Fox. Harmonium, Mr. James W. Martin. Conductor, Mr. J. A. Drage.

A CONCERT was given at Exeter Hall on the 19th ult., by the Choir trained by Mr. W. H. Davies at the Wardour Chapel School-rooms, Soho, in which the utmost efficiency was exhibited in several

sacred and secular compositions. The concert appeared to give the highest satisfaction; and great credit is due to Mr. Davies for his exertions in bringing his Choir to its present state of discipline. Miss E. Stirling presided at the pianoforte.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A PROFESSIONAL.—*The information you require is to be found in the Musical Directory, published by Rudall, Rose, Carte, and Co., Charing-cross.*

A STUDENT.—*The point raised by our correspondent is certainly one of interest. Albrechtsberger, like many other theorists, seems desirous of omitting the augmented third from his table of intervals; but evidently feels compelled to give it in its proper place amongst the dissonances. The omission of this interval is still more extraordinary, as he admits, and illustrates by example, its inversion, the diminished sixth. Mr. Goss, in his "Introduction to Harmony and Thorough-bass," is at least more logical, for he denies both.*

THOMAS TIMMINS.—*The question is one often asked by those who either do not study the theory of music at all, or who advance just far enough to get confused. Certainly F double sharp "falls on G natural" on the keys of the pianoforte; but so also does D sharp fall upon E flat. Harmony should be studied on the lines of the staff. As our correspondent's theoretical knowledge advances, he will perceive that chords, which are named from the intervals they contain, must be perfectly unintelligible unless every such interval be correctly calculated. To take a familiar instance, the Dominant harmony in G sharp minor must be D sharp, F double sharp, and A sharp. The merest tyro must see why G natural could not here be substituted for F double sharp.*

#### Brief Summary of Country News.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.*

BIRKENSHAW (near LEEDS).—A grand Concert was given in the Temperance Hall on Saturday evening, the 22nd ult. The instrumentalists of the Cleckheaton Philharmonic Society gave their services, and under the leadership of Mr. Matthew Arnold, of Leeds, performed several selections in a very creditable manner. An efficient glee party was also present.

BRIGHTON.—On Tuesday evening, the 27th of June, a Concert was given by the Glee and Madrigal Union, in the Windsor Rooms. The Concert was most successful, nearly all the pieces being encored; amongst others, "The Hardy Norseman," "By Celia's Arbour," "Blow, gentle gales," and also several solos by the members of the Union.

DOUGCASTER.—The second Festival of the Doncaster Choral Union took place on the 6th June, in St. George's Church. The music sung on the occasion was admirably suited for testing the efficiency of rural choirs in that simple, but effective, style of composition, so little cultivated by the choristers of large and populous towns. Several of the hymns were rescued from oblivion by the enthusiastic researches of the accomplished Secretary to the Union, the Rev. H. Fleckures Sheppard, M.A.; and some were most ably harmonised by Mr. Sheppard himself. Tallis's music was used for the versicles and responses; and the Anthem in the morning was Dr. Boyce's "Great and marvellous are thy works." The evening Anthem was composed for the occasion by the Rev. H. F. Sheppard, the words taken from the 89th Psalm, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th verses. The melody is simple and pleasing, and the harmony full and effective.

DUBLIN.—Master Willie Pape gave a pianoforte performance in the Grand Concert Hall of the Exhibition on the 3rd ult. He played on Kirkman's grand piano, exhibited by Messrs. Pigot. The programme included Thalberg's "Mosé in Egitto" and "Home, sweet home," and a Fantasia by Prudent, in all which pieces he displayed those high qualities as a pianist which have gained for him an extensive and deserved popularity. An organ recital, by Dr. Stewart, afterwards took place, which was highly successful; and later in the evening Mr. Fletcher Baker gave a pianoforte performance, which afforded much pleasure to a very large audience.

DUNEDIN (OTAGO).—The Dunedin Philharmonic Society gave its first concert for the season on the 5th April, at St. George's Hall, Stewart-street, under the direction of Mr. George H. West. The Oratorio selected for the occasion was Handel's *Samson*, and although the orchestral accompaniments were somewhat weak, the work was listened to with the utmost interest by the audience.

GREAT STANMORE (MIDDLESEX).—A Vocal and Instrumental Concert was given at this place on the 20th ult., under the patronage of the Rev. L. J. Bernays. The chorus numbered 30 voices, assisted by the Barnet Militia Band. The programme consisted of anthems, choruses, glees, part-songs, &c. The principal vocalists were Misses Davies, Buckett, and Stent; and Messrs. Lingley, Fox, and W. S. Young. Mr. J. A. Drage conducted.

HEREFORD.—The Festival of the Herefordshire Choral Union took place on the 21st ult., in the Cathedral. The service was intoned throughout by the Rev. G. Custance. In the chanting of the Psalms and Canticles a new feature in the disposition of the singers was introduced. Hitherto the chanting has been taken up alternately by *Decani* and *Cantoris*—that is, from North to South; but on this occasion *Decani* was contained within the Choir, and *Cantoris* in the transepts and nave; the alternation being rendered by all the voices of the former singing one verse, and all those of the latter the other. The effect of this alteration was remarkably good. Mr. G. Townshend Smith presided at the organ with his usual well-known ability.

**LOUTH.**—The clergy and choir of the Parish Church have lately presented their organist, Dr. Dixon, with a handsome testimonial on his departure from Louth. The gift consisted of a gold pencil case—on the seal of which are the Doctor's initials; and on the case itself the following inscription, "The gift of the Clergy and the Choir of the Parish Church, Louth, 1865," and an illuminated address, which appropriately records the high esteem in which Dr. Dixon was held by those who were brought into active intercourse with him.

**MADRAS.**—The report of the Annual General Meeting of the Philharmonic Society, which took place on the 13th May, is exceedingly interesting, as showing the zeal evinced by the members of the society in the cause of good music. It appears that since the resignation of Mr. Mayne, there has been no paid conductor, the duties having been undertaken by a member of the committee; and every encouragement has been given to the society by the influential residents, Sir William Denison having placed the Banqueting Hall at their disposal, for weekly practices and public concerts, and Sir Hope Grant having given a donation of 100 rupees to the "Instrument Fund." We cordially wish the society every success.

**ONGAR (ESSEX).**—A Festival Meeting of Parish Choirs took place at St. Martin's, Chipping Ongar, on the 19th ult. In accordance with the plan advocated by Mr. Dawes, the organist, in his lectures on Church Music, the Choir was divided; so that the girls sang the *Cantori*, and the boys the *Decani* verses of the Psalms and Canticles. The effect of this was exceedingly good. The Prayers, &c., were excellently monotoned by the Rev. D. T. Moore; and the Anthem, Weldon's "O praise the Lord," was sung with remarkable precision. Mr. Dawes may justly feel proud of the result of his great labour in training the Choirs, a result which it would have been difficult to attain without the hearty encouragement of the Rector, the Rev. E. Fisher, who preached the sermon, which elicited a very fair collection from a numerous and deeply-interested audience.

**OXFORD.**—The annual meeting of the Parish Choirs of the district was held in the Cathedral on Wednesday, the 5th ult., when upwards of 400 voices were assembled. Two grand Choral Services were celebrated, the anthem in the morning being Mendelssohn's Chorale from St. Paul, "O thou, the true and only light," and in the evening Goss's "Stand up and bless," both being admirably rendered. The voices were accompanied on the organ by Mr. John Stainer, Mus. Bac., Organist of Magdalene College, and conducted by Mr. T. M. Grizzelle, Inspector of the Choirs, and Organist of St. John's College. —AN Exercise, entitled "Prayer and Praise," composed by Mr. W. Russell, for the degree of Mus. Bac., was performed in the Music School, before the Vice-Chancellor, &c., Dr. Corfe presiding for the Professor. The exercise was conducted by Mr. E. Herbert, Mus. Bac., and was admirably sung by the New College Choir. Mr. Russell, who is only 19, was last Christmas appointed Organist of Lancing College, Shoreham, and was previously pupil of Mr. Herbert, of Sherborne Abbey.

**STRATFORD (ESSEX).**—A new Organ, built by Mr. Henry Jones, of Brompton, for St. Paul's Church, was opened on the 29th of June, on which occasion there was full choral service. Mr. Josh. Ivinney, the Organist, presided.

**SYDNEY.**—On the 13th April the Philharmonic Society gave its fourth concert in the Masonic Hall, under the able direction of Mr. W. J. Cordner. Amongst the instrumental music a bassoon solo by Mr. McCoy, and part of a stringed quartet by Haydn, were much admired. We must also mention the excellent singing of Miss Haidee Harris (a pupil of Madame Flora Harris), who displayed a good contralto voice and a cultivated style. —THE Sydney Tonic Sol-fa Association has also given a concert at the School of Arts; and the Orpheonist Society, which is now re-organised, gave a very successful performance on the 16th May, at the Freemasons' Hall, in which Miss James, a pupil of Madame E. Wallace Bushelle, is spoken of as a vocalist of much promise. —AT the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Mr. W. S. Lyster's Opera Company have been giving a series of performances to crowded houses, under the conductorship of Mr. George Loder.

**THORNLEY.**—A Concert was given here on Monday evening, June 26th, in aid of the memorial window to be erected in Thornley Church to the memory of the late — Spearman, Esq., in the centre of whose estate the church is built. The principal *artistes* were Mrs. Moody (soprano) and the City of Durham Glee and Madrigal Union, assisted by the Thornley Church Choir. Mrs. Moody gave two songs; Mr. Whitehead was encored in the comic ditty, "As I'd nothing else to do," and Mr. David Lambert in "The Village Blacksmith." The glee and part-songs were well sung, several of them being encored. The Concert terminated with "God save the Queen."

**WILTON.**—A grand open air Concert of a novel and interesting character was given in Wilton Park, by the kind permission of the Lady Herbert of Lea, on Coronation Day, by about 120 voices, detached from several large church choirs, under the able direction of Mr. J. E. Spinney. The weather was most propitious, and numerous excursion trains were called into requisition; and a very large audience, numbering several thousands, testified their entire appreciation of the music by the most orderly attention, intermingled with loud applause and well-merited encores.

**WORCESTER.**—The Festival Choral Society gave its third and concluding concert of the season, at the Music Hall, on the 23rd of June, which was very successful, and gave much satisfaction to the subscribers, the large hall being quite full. The programme consisted of *Acis and Galatea*, and a miscellaneous collection of vocal and instrumental music. The principal vocalists were Miss Westbrook, Miss Pullen, and Messrs. Smith and Milward, of the Cathedral Choir, whose rendering of the music allotted to them elicited much

applause. The band was led by Mr. Blagrove, and its efficiency added much to the success of the Concert. Mr. Blagrove's fantasia on the violin, and Mr. Waite's violoncello solo, were much admired. Mr. Caldicott presided at the piano, and Mr. Done, Hon. Musical Director of the Society, conducted.

MR. EUGENE SPINNEY, Organist of Banbury, Oxon., has just passed a most successful examination, and obtained his degree of Bachelor of Music, Oxon. We are also pleased to add that Mr. Spinney is one of the youngest Bachelors of Music that has ever obtained a degree at the Oxford University.

**ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. Chas. F. Davies, to St. Saviour's, Maida-hill, W. —Mr. J. Sumners, Mus. Bac., Oxon., to St. Peter's, Stanley-gardens, Notting-hill, W. —Mr. J. W. Macfarlane, to Percy Chapel, Bath. —Mr. H. V. Lewis (R.A.M.), to Denbigh-road Chapel, Bayswater. —Mr. Frank Pinney, to the Parish Church of Ottery-St. Mary. —Mr. F. H. Cozens, to St. Stephen's, Coleman-street.

**LADIES and GENTLEMEN** desirous of learning a great deal in a little time, should apply to Mr. Charles Field, Teacher of the Pianoforte and Singing, 18, Grafton-place, Euston-square. Eight Lessons, One Guinea. Schools attended. Organ and Concertina Lessons by C. Aylwin Field.

**A YOUNG GENTLEMAN**, a good Musician, who has received a first-class commercial education, and has some knowledge of Latin, wishes for an engagement abroad as **ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER**; is now 18 years of age, and has been Organist of a Parish (where Full Service is performed) for the last seven years. First-class testimonials from several Gentlemen and Clergymen. Address, "B.Z.," Post-Office, Halesowen, Worcestershire.

**WANTED an ORGANIST and CONDUCTOR** of the Choral Union for the Parish of Bray, co. Wicklow. Total salary £45 per annum. There is a good opening for tuitions. Copies of testimonials to be sent before August 16, to Rev. J. George Scott, Bray, co. Wicklow.

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**A N ORGANIST WANTED for Sunday Service** at a West End Congregation, Morning and Evening. A correct knowledge of Psalmody and Chorale Music are the principal requisites for the situation; and as there will be an immediate opportunity of commencing a Choral Class, for instruction in the Congregation, it is requested that none will apply but those who are prepared to commence immediately on the contemplated duty. All applications must be made in writing, with name and address, to "X.C.," 24, Langham-street, Portland-place, W.

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